(c) to what extent Government have assisted the State Forest Department in Andhra Pradesh to curb such illicit transportation of timber on the river Godavari; and

from June to September, every year during the flood season;

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected from State Government of Andhra Pradesh and will be laid on the table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH); (a) Yes, Sir. the Garhwal and Kumaon hills of Uttar Pradesh witnessed large scale forest fires during the May-June 1995. As per report of the UP Government the area affected by forest fires in Kumaon Hills in 334 Sq. Kms and Garhwal Hills is 597 Sq. Kms.

(b) The Government has appointed a two member Committee on 11.7.1995 to enquire into the causes of the forest fires, the extent of damage to the forest wealth and formulate a strategy to prevent the occurrance of such forest fires in future in these areas. The team will submit its report within a month.

Fire in Upper Reaches in Himalaya in Garhwal and Kumaon

385. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds and thousands of acres of forest in the upper reaches of Himalaya in Garhwal and Kumaon were ravaged by forest fires in June this year;

(b) if so, the extent of damage; and how far the fires were spotaneous or natural and how far the same were caused by men and vested interests; and

(c) whether the forest fires in these forests is an annual feature; if so, the comparative figures of damage caused during 1993 and 1994?

(c) Yes, Sir. the comparative figures for 1993 and 1994 are 18 Sq. Kms and 60 Sq. Kms respectively.

Strengthening of Administrative Units to Check Criminalization in Delhi

386. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of incidents of murder, rape and kidnapping in Delhi were more than that of in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras in the past years;

(b) if not, what is total number of each of these crimes which have taken place in